

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested. Claims 1-16 are all the claims pending in the application. Applicant submits the pending claims define patentable subject matter.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fujimori et al. (USP 7,009,942; hereinafter “Fujimori”) in view of Fellman (6,980,990). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Independent claim 1 is directed to a method of automatically determining a device’s nickname. Independent claim 1, recites, in part:

recognizing a first device that has been connected to a network without being assigned a nickname;

selecting a nickname for the recognized first device from a recommended nickname table which is also connected to the network; and

registering information regarding the selected nickname.

The claimed method, thus, sets forth, *inter alia*, recognizing a first device that has been connected to a network without being assigned a nickname.

Fujimori, by contrast, simply discloses a connection setting apparatus for setting connections between a plurality of apparatuses connected to a network. Fujimori does not disclose or suggest recognizing a first device that has been connected to a network without being assigned a nickname. Specifically, regarding setting a connection to a new apparatus, Fujimori

describes detecting a connection,¹ transmitting a request signal to the connection apparatus,² receiving information from the connection apparatus,³ deriving and generating information from the connection apparatus, and displaying the generated information.⁴ While Fujimori does disclose connecting an apparatus to a network, Fujimori is completely silent as to recognizing that an apparatus has been connected to a network without being assigned a nickname.

Nevertheless, the Examiner asserts Fujimori teaches this unique feature, and cites col. 2, lines 9 and 10 in support of his position. However, the cited portion of Fujimori merely discloses a detecting means for detecting an apparatus connected to a network. That is, just because Fujimori teaches a detecting means which detects an apparatus connected to a network, does not necessarily mean that such detection also recognizes that said apparatus has been connected to a network without being assigned a nickname. To the contrary, Fujimori only contemplates the connection of an apparatus. Fujimori fails to disclose anything related to automatically determining a nickname or recognizing that a device is connected to a network without being assigned a nickname. Such features are beyond the scope of Fujimori.

Additionally, Applicant notes that the Examiner rightfully concedes that Fujimori does not explicitly state that the names are from a table. However, the Examiner asserts “[a]ssigning names from a name table is well known in network or communication art.” In support of this

¹ See *Fujimori*, FIG. 8, operation SA4.

² *Id.* at operation SA5.

³ *Id.* at operations SA6.

⁴ *Id.* at operations SA7, SA8 and SA11.

position, the Examiner cites Fellman, referring to the title and the abstract. The abstract of Fellman states:

A domain name registration system includes a user interface through which a user can submit multiple names to a query server to determine the availability of the names for domain name registration. After the query results are returned for each of the multiple names submitted, the user is presented with a table listing the availability of each name in combination with multiple Top-Level Domain (TLD) extensions. The user is able to select one or more names from the table for registration in the registry database. After the query server has attempted to register each of the selected names, the user is presented with a Registry Response Table indicating which of the selected names were successfully registered as domain names. Thus, the system and method increases the speed and productivity of querying and updating a domain name registry or other database.

Applicant submits that the Examiner's reliance on Fellman is misplaced.

As can be seen from the abstract quoted above, Fellman simply teaches a domain name registration system for assigning and registering domain names for devices connected to the Internet. In citing Fellman, the Examiner argues:

From the teaching of Fellman, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill to assign names from a table to devices connected to a network so that the user is able to make names he like available to the name selection system of Fujimori.

However, as noted above, Applicant again points out that claim 1 is directed to “automatically determining a device’s nickname.”[§] The above-cited portion of Fellman plainly states the user is able to select one of more names from the table for registration. Applicant submits neither reference, either alone or in combination, teaches or suggests automatically determining a device’s nickname, specifically, by selecting a nickname for the recognized device from a recommended nickname table.

Moreover, Applicant notes that, contrary to the Examiner’s assertion, Fujimori is not directed to a name selection system. Rather, as discussed above, Fujimori is merely directed to a “connection setting apparatus.”[§] As such, Applicant submits that one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, would be motivated for the reasons set forth by the Examiner, since Fujimori is not directed to a name selection system.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that independent claim 1 is patentable over the prior art of record at least for the reasons stated above. Similarly, Applicant submits that independent claims 7, 9, 13 and 14 are patentable for analogous reasons. Further, Applicant submits dependent claims 2-6, 8, 10, 15 and 16 are patentable at least by virtue of their respective dependency on claims 1, 7, 9 and 14.

Claims 5, 6, 7, 8 and 16

Regarding claims 5, 6, 7, 8 and 16, the Examiner asserts the claimed features are inherent. Specifically, the Examiner states, “[t]hat is exactly why newly connected device

[§] Emphasis added.

[§] See also, *Fujimori*, Title.

requires name assignment so as to be uniquely identified in a network.” Again, Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner’s rationale.

Dependent claim 5 recites, in part:

determining whether a nickname identical to the selected nickname has already been registered;

if a nickname identical to the selected nickname has already been registered, selecting a nickname different from the already registered nickname from the recommended nickname table or other recommended nickname tables; and

if a nickname identical to the selected nickname has not yet been registered, registering the selected nickname.

On the other hand (as noted above), Fujimori is not directed to a name selection system, but rather, a connection setting apparatus. As such, Fujimori is not concerned with the determining whether a nickname identical to the selected nickname has already been registered. Detecting whether a new apparatus is connected to a network does not necessarily include determining whether a nickname identical to the selected nickname has already been registered, as claimed. Indeed, Fujimori is completely silent as to such a feature. Therefore, Applicant submits the above-noted features are not inherent to the disclosure of Fujimori.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark C. Davis", written over a horizontal line.

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Date: January 2, 2008